

WYCOMBE Wanderers bounced back to the top of the Berger Isthmian League on Saturday, when two goals in each half gave them a convincing victory at struggling Boreham Wood.

With main challengers Slough and Enfield fighting out their second goalless draw in three weeks, Wycombe moved one point clear at the top. But can they now hold off the challenge of Slough, who have three games in hand?

The previous week's home defeat by Hendon looks like the result that finally scuppered Wanderers' chances, but they are fighting on until the end in the hope that their old rivals will collapse.

The Blues certainly showed their battling qualities in this bruising match played on an uneven Broughing Road pitch against opponents who asked that no quarter be given.

No authority

Time and again Wycombe players were brought down by crashing tackles. But the only caution issued by referee Mr Tony Ward was on to Terry Scott for dissent.

Mr Ward goes on to the Football League list next season — and he will certainly have to perform better than this to stay there. He failed to assert his authority on the game and allowed one Boreham Wood player two successive kicks at a corner, as it rebounded from a post.

Wanderers deserve much credit for this result as they were well below full strength with three important midfield men missing — Howard

By MICHAEL KNOX Boreham Wood 0, Wycombe 4

Kennedy (at a wedding), Jimmy Jacobs (wife's illness) and Bob Dell (bruised thigh).

So Mike Keen gave a first league outing to Simon Dexter, the young signing from Thame who has played well in the Reserves this season. After a slow start in which he struggled to adjust to the pace, he battled through well and by the end was showing great confidence.

With four forwards in the side, the Blues were committed to the attack and in the opening few minutes they nearly came unstuck.

Quick goals

Only two fine saves by Gary Lester — one direct from a corner and the other from a fierce 25 yard drive by Phil Sewell — kept them on level terms. But gradually the visitors adjusted to the awkward conditions, which made all control almost impossible.

But they still looked like going in level, at half-time — until they scored twice in a minute.

In the 41st minute Bob Davies was fouled 15 yards outside the penalty area. George Borg curled the ball into the near left hand post, where it was flicked goalwards. Terry Glynn, restored to the side, shot on the turn past Steve Waller from close range.

Wycombe went straight back into the attack and 60 seconds later Steve Long fired an awkward bouncing ball into the net from 15 yards after Glynn had mis-cued his original shot.

Apart from one mad scramble in which the Wycombe defence somehow survived three clear cut chances, Boreham Wood, coached by former Blues boss Andy Williams, rarely looked like getting back into the game.

But it was their skipper Les McCormack who made the game safe for Wycombe with a dramatic own goal in the 66th minute. Waller appeared to have Long's low shot well covered when McCormack lunged in to send

the ball into the roof of the net.

One of the reasons for Wycombe's superiority was Terry Scott's sharpness up-front. Twice he was denied by the crossbar and goalkeeper and so it was only right that he should score the fourth in injury time with a lobbed 30 yards shot over the 'keeper after he had evaded an off-side trap.

Casualty

Wycombe's only casualty in a bruising game was Glynn, who bruised an ankle early on. He would have probably have come off had the team possessed a normal substitute.

But striker Gary Toll missed the team coach and Mr Keen himself wore the number 12 shirt — and he was not going to play unless he really had to!

BOREHAM WOOD: S. Waller; S. O'Neill, D. Tyler, L. McCormack, G. Tyler, P. Sewell, A. Waugh, J. Batten, R. Butler, S. Baker, S. Wallace (sub: D. Busby 45 mins).

WYCOMBE: G. Lester; P. Birdseye, G. Borg, R. Davies, K. Mead, S. Dexter, K. Wilson, S. Long, T. Glynn, T. Scott, M. Holifield. Sub: M. Keen (not used).

Referee: A. W. Ward (New Southgate). **Half-time:** 0-2. **Scorers:** Wycombe — Glynn (41 mins), Long (42), McCormack o.g. (66), Scott (90).

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wycombe	39	21	8	10	70	43	71
Slough	36	19	13	4	58	28	70
Enfield	38	19	11	8	66	40	68
Dagenham	39	17	9	13	76	62	60
Leytonstone	36	16	10	10	65	49	58
Harrow	37	16	9	12	52	41	57
Sutton	33	15	10	8	61	48	55
Staines	39	15	9	15	57	53	54
Hendon	38	14	10	14	56	54	52
Tooting	40	15	6	19	48	52	51
Dulwich	40	13	11	16	61	64	50
Bromley	38	14	8	16	57	65	50
Hayes	35	15	5	15	35	44	50
*Barking	41	12	12	17	56	71	46
Leatherhead	40	11	13	16	34	49	46
Croydon	36	10	15	11	41	40	45
Carshalton	35	13	6	16	49	65	45
Hitchin	36	12	8	16	58	54	44
Harlow	38	10	13	15	44	57	43
W'hamstow	37	12	7	18	43	63	43
Boreham W	37	10	9	18	44	64	39
+Woking	38	10	6	22	36	61	33

* 2 pts deducted, + 3 pts deducted.

All Isthmian final

SUTTON United, who beat Wycombe in the second round, will meet Bishops Stortford at Wembley next month in an all Isthmian League F.A. Trophy final.

Sutton, who had never previous reached the last 32 beat Alliance League side Bangor 4-1 in the second leg to go through 6-3 on aggregate, while Stortford from Division One of the Isthmian won 3-2 overall against Dartford of the Southern League.

So for the moment the Isthmians have every right to call themselves the Premier non-league football competition, ahead of the much vaunted Alliance which Enfield and Dagenham are joining next season.

I wonder if those two famous Isthmian clubs have any regrets about that decision. Certainly Saturday's League is now in the ascendancy. After all Stortford do not even play in the top division.

Missing the bus

GARY Toll's failure to catch the bus to Boreham Wood on Saturday was the result of a genuine misunderstanding. The coach was due to leave Loakes Park at 1pm.

But Toll was under the impression he had to report to the ground at 1.15pm, the departure time for the Reserve team coach to Wembley. He tried to make it to Boreham

Wood by car but the Hertfordshire town is notoriously difficult to find.

Mick Holifield is unavailable for Wycombe's friendly tonight (Tuesday) at home to Beaconsfield United who are celebrating their 60th anniversary with a series of events this week.

Turn to page 22 for a focus of Beaconsfield United's past and present.

Reserves defeat

Wembley Reserves 3, Wycombe Reserves 1

WEAKENED Wycombe Reserves suffered their first Suburban League North Division away defeat since November when they went down 3-1 at Wembley Reserves on Saturday.

First team manager Mike Keen took several key Reserves to Boreham Wood because of his own selection problems, but the Reserves